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AN ADDRESS.



2. 1. 1832

AN
ADDRESS,
DELIVERED TO THE
LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
AT
Kingston-upon-Hull;

AT THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SESSION,

On FRIDAY, November 5, 1830.

PRINTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

BY CHARLES FROST, F. S. A.,
PRESIDENT OF THE HULL LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE
YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, &c. &c.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

AUREA, PERPETUA SEMPER DIGNISSIMA VITA.—LUCRET.



HULL:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY I. WILSON, LOWGATE;
SOLD ALSO BY MESSRS. SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS'-HALL-
COURT, LONDON.

1831.

416.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE respect which the Author of the following sheets entertains for the Society, over which he has the honor to preside, compels him to submit his own judgment to theirs, on the question of giving to the public, what was originally designed only for their information and amusement.

He is conscious that the work has no other claim to notice than the interest which the subject of it may impart, and the industry with which the materials have been collected.

Though the labor of the collection has, he confesses, been great, the approbation, which he has received from the Society, is to him a sufficient recompence.

It has frequently been the subject of regret, that so little attention is, in general, paid to the literary history, and especially the local biography, of our provincial Towns, The consequences of this defect are, the difficulties encountered by writers of general history, in tracing and connecting facts, frequently of the most interesting kind, and the impossibility, in many instances, of referring im-

portant and valuable inventions to their true origin. To the same cause is also to be attributed, the oblivion into which, in a vast multitude of instances, modest and unobtrusive merit has undeservedly fallen.

Hints of the most valuable kind are occasionally thrown out anonymously, in fugitive papers; or, though the Authors may be known to, and esteemed by, their Contemporaries, their merits, and sometimes their very names, in the next generation, pass into oblivion, and others reap the reward of their genius or industry.

Owing to the unavoidable haste in which, during his short intervals of leisure from professional engagements, the Author has executed the following sketch, he is aware that he must have made many important omissions; and he regrets that he has been unable to make it as complete as he trusts it will be found faithful and impartial.

On one circumstance he has reason to congratulate such of his readers as may be Townsmen,—that a large portion of literary talent and acquirement is here shown to have existed, and to exist at this day, amongst us; larger, perhaps, than might have been presumed to belong to us. Let it be our part to pay due respect to this talent, and to encourage its cultivation, both as a matter of justice and policy;—of justice to those individuals who have done credit to the place of which they are natives or denizens;—and of policy in prompting and inciting our youth to studies and pur-

suits honorable in themselves and useful to the community. Among other beneficial purposes which our Institution and similar Institutions are calculated to answer, this is certainly one; and it will afford to the Author a pleasure of the most gratifying kind—both as a citizen and a parent—should what he has here written be found, in any degree, to have contributed to the advancement of this desirable end. If, in his report of the merits of individuals still living, he may be thought to have indulged too freely and indiscriminately in the language of panegyric, he can assure his readers that no expression of encomium has been used which he does not believe to be fully authorised by the known character of the parties. It is a source of just and honorable gratification to himself to be on terms of intimate and friendly intercourse with most of them; and his sole endeavour has been, to let facts speak for themselves.

He can adopt, in its fullest extent, the sentiment expressed by an eminent scholar and brother antiquary, on a similar occasion, rejoicing in the opportunity afforded him of paying, to the place of HIS NATIVITY, this “tribute of filial gratitude.”*

* See, in the Gentleman's Magazine, (vol. 97, part 1, pp. 347, 544,) an abstract of a very interesting paper, read before the Literary and Philosophical Association of Bath, by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F. A. S., “On the connection of that City with the Literature and Science of England.” Mr. Hunter has been for many years a resident in Bath, but not being a native, he has not, as he says, been swayed by “the partiality which is supposed to attach to those who speak of the place of their nativity.”

If there be any part of the following pages which he reluctantly permits to go to the press, it is that which relates to himself, in the Appendix. But, as he has appeared several times before the public, as the Author of pieces which have been favorably received, it would be a needless affectation of delicacy, on his part, to object to be described as such; and it might wear the appearance of disrespect to the Society, were he to refuse his compliance with a resolution, proposed in the most flattering manner, and unanimously adopted.

HULL, 30th April, 1831.

ERRATA.

Page 71, line 8—for B. A., A. M., *read* A. M., M. D.

Page 128, line 6—for (1828 and 1829,) *read* (1827 and 1828.)

AN ADDRESS,

&c.

GENTLEMEN,

I must apologize for trespassing shortly upon your time, on the opening of the Session, while I express my gratitude for the high honour you conferred upon me at the last annual meeting, by electing me to the office of President of the Institution, for the current year. The confidence reposed in me by your choice, which having been made in my absence was rendered the more complimentary, demands my most cordial acknowledgments; these I beg to offer to the Society in full sincerity, but accompanied with unaffected regret that the choice has not fallen on one better qualified than myself to fill the responsible situation, in which, by your kindness and good opinion, I am now placed. It will be my endeavour to discharge faithfully the duties of the office, according to the best of my ability; but the only hope I dare venture to indulge with confidence is, that when the time shall arrive for

resigning my honours into more efficient hands, I shall at least be entitled to your approbation for having at all times manifested an anxious desire to promote, by the best means in my power, the interests and success of the Institution.

Seven years have now elapsed since the Society was established, and it is highly pleasing to contemplate the progress it has made during that period, and the rank it already holds in the estimation of numerous similar associations, which have been recently formed in the county of York, as well as in other parts of the kingdom. Of the utility of Societies like ours, it is now too late to entertain a doubt ;—the concurrent judgment of the most gifted and the best educated men throughout the country having pronounced an irrevocable sentence in their favour, evidenced by the fact of their having joined, and by their talents contributed to support the credit and value of, such Institutions. Our time this evening may not be unprofitably or unsatisfactorily spent, if we devote it to an investigation of the means which we possess among ourselves of maintaining the character of our Institution, and promoting its legitimate objects. The primary inquiry must necessarily be,—does the town of Hull possess sufficient talent to support the respectability of a Society like ours ?

Should the result of this inquiry be such as to

justify the anticipations entertained by many of us as to the future prosperity of our Institution, it will only remain for us to consider whether any improvement can be effected in the rules and regulations by which the Society is governed. As some judgment may be formed of the present by the past, I propose to commence my investigation by taking a slight retrospect of the different Literary and Philosophical Societies which have, within the last forty years, been formed in this town,—and hence to shew that, within that period, there has been a sufficiency both of talent to support such societies and inclination to render them respectable and useful,—and that the dissolution of those which have now ceased to exist has been owing solely to a defect of judicious regulations.

The earliest association of a literary nature in this town, of which I have been able to obtain any authentic account, is one which Tickell has mentioned in his *History of Hull*,* as likely, at no distant period from the time when he wrote, to make Hull distinguished by its spirited cultivation of the liberal arts and belles lettres. It was formed on the 19th June, 1792, on which day, Dr. Moyes, (whose lectures on Natural Philosophy must be remembered with pleasure by many gentlemen now present)

* Page 920.

Dr. Forbes, Dr. Alderson, the Rev. Miles Popple, Mr. Wray, the Rev. John Healey Bromby, Mr. Young, Mr. Frost,* and Mr. Bolton, met at the house of the late Mr. Browne, in Lowgate, and constituted themselves into a "Society for the purpose of Literary Information." An accession of members soon gave additional importance to the Society, whose meetings for the discussion of literary and philosophical subjects were continued, with tolerable regularity, until the year 1797; beyond which period there is no existing record of its proceedings. That its labours were creditable to its members may be inferred from the fact of a proposition having been submitted to the Society in April, 1795, by the late Mr. John Richardson, for the appointment of a committee of seven of its members, to examine the papers which had been read at its meetings, and to select for publication such of them as might be thought proper for that purpose. This proposition—suggested, probably, by the example of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester—was carried into effect by the selection of papers, filling two quarto volumes in MS.; but their publication, which required the assent of the authors of the essays, never took

* The Author's late Father.

† The second Volume of this Collection is now in the possession of the Author.

place,—and it is, perhaps, not unfair to presume, from the acknowledged talent of many of the members of the society, that by their not being published, the town was deprived of a justifiable opportunity of asserting and establishing its claim to literary reputation. Out of gratitude to Dr. Moyes, for his valuable aid in promoting the objects of the Institution—of which he might be considered the founder—its members elected him their first president; and on the 7th August, 1792, they passed a resolution that he should be requested to sit for his picture, and that the artist should be paid out of the funds of the society. The portrait was accordingly taken by the late John Russell, R. A., and on the dissolution of the society it was presented to the Subscription Library, where it is now preserved. Among the rules of the society were two which could not fail to hasten its dissolution; one of them providing that, after the discussion of each question, the opinion of the majority of the members present should be annexed to the question; and another, requiring that each member should, in turn, produce a paper for discussion. The first secretary of the society was the late John Wray, Esq., who was succeeded in that office by the late Andrew Hollingworth, Esq.

In 1801, soon after the opening of the room in

which we are now assembled, an evening meeting of the subscribers to the Library was established, for the purpose of literary conversation. Your former president, the late Dr. Alderson, in addressing the subscribers to the Library, at a general meeting in December, 1804, stated that nothing could exceed the ardour which the youth, on the establishment of that literary society, shewed to improve themselves in useful knowledge. It was attended by above one hundred of the subscribers, but owing to some unfortunate differences, which took place among a few individuals, the harmony of its proceedings was interrupted, and it was found necessary to discontinue its meetings. The extinction of this society gave rise to a select literary one, which was formed on the 19th of February, 1803, and which met regularly once a fortnight through the winter season, in each year, until the 31st of July, 1809, when it ceased to exist. The duties of secretary to this society, during its continuance, were discharged with great attention and punctuality by Mr. Richard Woodhouse. Many excellent papers were produced at its meetings, and the discussions which followed were frequently of an extremely interesting and instructive nature ; nor can this be doubted, when it is known that the society had on the list of its members—Dr. Alderson, the Rev. Richard

Patrick, the Rev. George Lee, the Rev. William Severn, Messrs, Spence, Hill, Broadley, Boileau, Watson, Fielding, Simpson, Frost, Stovin, Wilson, Snowden, and many other gentlemen of acknowledged talent and information. On the dissolution of this society, a few of its members formed themselves into a Literary Club, which met weekly, first at Mr. Wallis's Museum, in Myton-Gate, and afterwards at the houses of its members, during the winter season, for many years. I ought not to omit to mention that, in the years 1804 and 1805, a society, consisting of a few scientific men, and of which Mr. Robert Simpson acted as secretary, met weekly during the winter months, for the delivery of Lectures on Chemistry, illustrated by experiments, for which purpose the Society had provided itself with a laboratory and suitable apparatus. From this statement we may conclude that there has existed, throughout the last forty years, a strong desire, among many individuals in this town, to unite for the purpose of obtaining information on literary subjects. Such a desire still exists, and manifests itself at this time with increasing spirit and energy. It becomes, therefore, highly interesting to inquire what real pretensions the town of Hull has to literary fame ; and whether those pretensions are of such a nature as to justify the hope that our present Society may at least maintain, if

it should not be able to increase the reputation it has already acquired? This inquiry will be most satisfactorily prosecuted by adverting to the literary labours of those who, having either been born here or become entitled to the name of townsmen from a long continuance of domicile among us, have appeared before the world as authors. A bare recapitulation of names of persons and titles of books, must, I am aware, be tedious; but even if I possessed materials like those by which Dr. Fuller sought to relieve himself from a similar difficulty, the limited time allowed me for addressing you would preclude me from having recourse to them. "I confess," says that celebrated writer, in a preface to his *History of the Worthies of England*, "the subject is but "dull in itself, to tell the time and place of men's "birth and deaths, their names, with the names "and numbers of their books; and therefore this "bare skeleton of time, place and person must "be fleshed with some pleasant passages. To "this intent I have purposely interlaced (not as "meat but as condiment) many delightful stories, "that so the reader, if he do not arise (which I "hope and desire) *religiosior*, or *doctior*, with "more piety or learning, at least he may depart "*jucundior*, with more pleasure and lawful "delight."

My present object being to establish an im-

portant fact, rather than to amuse, I shall venture to pursue, without further apology, the course I have pointed out, trusting myself to your patience, and hoping that the monotony, which it will be difficult to avoid in the treatment of my subject, may, in some measure, be relieved by the interest which many of you must take in the persons whose names will be brought in review before you.

Doubting not that I might here apply the observation—"Vixère fortes ante Agamemnona
"multi,"—I shall commence my list with Captain LUKE FOXE, commonly called "North-West Fox," being the earliest of our native authors, whose name has come to my knowledge. He was born in the parish of St. Mary, and was baptized, as the register shows, on the 20th October, 1586 : his father, Richard Foxe, was an Assistant of the Trinity-House at this port, and brought up his son to the profession, which he had followed, of a seafaring man. The revival of an attempt to discover a North-West Passage, according to the authority of Barrow,* is unquestionably to be attributed to the son, who having petitioned the King "for the lend of a ship for the voyage, and
"countenance to the action," set sail, under royal patronage, towards the South Sea, in search

* A Chronological History of Voyages into the Arctic Regions. By John Barrow, F. R. S. Page 235.

of that passage on the 7th May, 1631. The vessel selected by him for the occasion was His Majesty's pinnace the Charles, of the burthen of 80 tons, which was manned with twenty men and two boys, victualled for eighteen months, and "the best for condition and quality, especially for this voyage, that the world could afford." Capt. Foxe arrived in the Downs, on his return from this expedition, on the 31st day of October, in the same year in which he departed from this country,—the result of his voyage, as Barrow states, having evidently disappointed those who had been instrumental in promoting it. He had, however, the honour of being admitted into the presence of His Majesty, to give an account of his undertaking; and he subsequently published the history not only of his own voyage but of the various discoveries made by others, in the endeavour to find a North-West Passage. This History, "printed by his Majestie's command," appeared in 1635, under the affected title of—"North-West Fox, or Fox from the North-West Passage," &c.* Barrow thus characterizes our author,—“He was a keen shrewd York-shireman, and evidently a man of conside-

* For the loan of a copy of this curious work, the author has been indebted to his friend, John Broadley, Esq. of South-Ella Hall, near Hull. It is contained in 272 pages (the last two not being numbered,) of foolscap 4to., those from 169 to 270 inclusive, being occupied with an account

“rable talent, but conceited beyond measure;
 “and the style of his journal is so uncouth,
 “and the jargon so obscure and comical, as in
 “many places to be scarcely intelligible.”

It is gratifying to me to be able to state, that the amiable poet MASON, whose works are sufficiently well known to all whom I now address, to render any particular allusion to them unnecessary, was a native of this town.—His grandfather, Hugh Mason, was appointed

of the Author's Voyage. The extreme rarity of the volume will justify the insertion at length, in this note, of its ample and descriptive title.—

“North-VVest Fox, or, Fox *from the North-west passage*. Beginning With King Arthvr, Malga, Oethvr, the two Zenis of *Iseland, Estotiland*, and *Dorgia*; Following with briefe Abstracts of the Voyages of *Cabot, Frobisher, Davis, Waymouth, Knight, Hudson, Button, Gibbons, Bylot, Baffin, Hawkridge*: Together with the Courses, Distance, Latitudes, Longitudes, Variations, Depths of Seas, Sets of Tydes, Currents, Races, and over-Falls; with other Observations, Accidents and remarkable things, as our Miseries and sufferings. Mr. Iames Hall's three Voyages to *Groyndland*, with a *Topographicall description of the Countries, the Salvages* lives and Treacheries, how our Men have beene slayne by them there, with the Commodities of all those parts; whereby the Marchant may have Trade, and the Mariner Employment. *Demonstrated in a Polar Card, wherein are all the Maines, Seas, and Ilands, herein mentioned*. With the Author his owne Voyage, being the XVIth. with the opinions and Collections of the most famous Mathematicians, and Cosmographers; with a Probabilitie to prove the same by Marine Remonstrations, compared by the Ebbing and Flowing of the Sea, experimented with places of our owne Coast. *By Captaine Lvke Foxe of Kingstone vpon Hull, Capt. and Pylot* for the Voyage, in his Majesties Pinnace the Charles. Printed by his Majesties Command. London, Printed by B. Alsop and Tho. Fawcett, dwelling in *Grubstreet*. 1635.”

Collector of the Customs at this port, in the year 1696 ; and his father, the Rev. William Mason, from whom, according to the supposition of Chalmers, he received the rudiments of his education, was the Vicar of the Holy-Trinity Church, from the year 1722 to the year 1753, when he died. Our poet, as appears from the Parish Registry of the Holy-Trinity, was baptized on the 11th day of March, 1724—5 ; and on the 25th day of September, 1765, his connection with Hull, which he had quitted about the year 1754, on his appointment to the living of Aston, in Yorkshire, was revived by his marriage, at St. Mary's Church, with Mary, the daughter of William Sherman, Esq. of this town. This lady did not long survive her marriage, having died at the age of 28 years, on the 27th of March, 1767. She was buried at Bristol, where, as the pathetic and justly celebrated epitaph, inscribed on her tombstone by her husband, informs us, she had been borne, in the vain hope that its waters might preserve her life against the fatal effects of consumption, whose attack had already shown itself in her "faded form." Mr. Mason died on the 7th of April, 1797, at the advanced age of 72 years, and his memory is honored by the following inscription, placed on an elegant marble

tablet, in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey :—

" Optimo Viro Gulielmo Mason, M. A.

" Poetae, si quis alius, culto, casto, pio, sacrum."

This town, shortly after the birth of Mason, produced another poet, though of a different description, in Commodore EDWARD THOMPSON, the son of a Hull merchant, and well known in the Navy by the appellation of "*Rhyming Thompson*." He was born in the year 1738, and was a Brother of the Trinity-House at this port. The Rev. Richard Warner, in his "*Literary Recollections*," recently published, relates, on the authority of an old naval officer, who sailed with Capt. Thompson,—“that his popularity in “the service was almost unparalleled, from the “sweetness of his temper and benevolence of his “nature.”* The following extract from a letter of his to Mr. Woodhouse, of which the original, dated 12th November, 1774, is now in the hands of a gentleman of this town, makes it appear probable that it was, at that time, his intention to offer himself as a candidate, at the ensuing election, for the representation of his native town in Parliament: he says—“I find you have “had the devil to pay on your election. Let “who will play the devil, I am determined to “stand the next time. I lost the Borough of

* Vol. I. p. 173, in *notd.*

“Rochester by a listless, careless manner; though
 “I am rather more inclined to blame myself
 “than my friends.” Besides the works of Andrew Marvell, Capt. Thompson edited those of Oldham and Paul Whitehead: his original productions, among which was “Sailor’s Letters, &c.,” published in 1766, were numerous, but many of them were of an objectionable nature; and, with the exception of some of his sea songs, those which were not liable to such a charge, possessed but little merit. Capt. Thompson died on board the *Grampus*, of which he was Commander, off the coast of Africa, on the 17th of January, 1786. It must be noticed to his honour, that when he had acquired some degree of opulence, he, with great alacrity and liberality, repaid his obligations to many persons who had before assisted him. He was considered as a brave and skilful commander; and many young men, since distinguished for naval enterprize, were brought up under his tuition,—among which were his nephew, the late Vice-Admiral Thomas Boulden Thompson, and Admiral Sir Home Popham.

The Rev. THOMAS CHALMERS, who was born in this town, was an
 Bachelors’ Com

* Chalmers, vol. x

year 1773, and became Vicar of the Holy-Trinity Church, in the year 1783. In the years 1784 and 1785, he filled the situation of president of the Subscription Library in this town, which, though then comparatively in its infancy, was already in a flourishing state, and had the support of many gentlemen of literary talent. Mr. Clarke did not court notoriety as an author,—having only published “A Sermon on the Election of a Mayor at Hull,” which was printed at the request of the Corporation of the town, in 1785, and “A Sermon on the Injustice of the Slave Trade,” printed in 1792. He died on the 25th day of July, 1797, at the age of forty-five years, having, a short time previously, taken his degree of Doctor of Divinity.

RALPH DARLING, Esq., an alderman, and twice mayor, of this town, was born in the parish of Holy-Trinity, on the 7th January, 1728, N. S., and was, for many years, a medical practitioner. He published an English translation of the Psalter, in 1775, in verse; and in 1801, his edition of the Psalter, under the title of “The Psalter, or the Holy Scriptures, in the Original Version, with the Four Gospels.” He died on the 11th November, 1798, at the age of seventy. He had been the appellant in a case, which had been before the Court of King’s Bench, and had been “admitted” than the appellant. RICHARD PATRICK, Esq., was vicar of the parish of Holy-Trinity, for a period of twenty-nine

years, of the parish of Sculcoates. He was born at Hull, where his father was an officer of Excise, and was baptized at the Holy-Trinity Church, on the 25th day of November, 1769. He commenced and completed his elementary education under the late Rev. Joseph Milner, at the Grammar School, in this town, where he was long the class-fellow and competitor of the Rev. John Healey Bromby, the present vicar of the Trinity Church, and the Venerable Archdeacon Wrangham. Of this triumvirate it may not be saying too much to affirm that they took with them to Alma Mater, a combination of talent which could not fail to add greatly to the celebrity of their master, as a preceptor of the highest order. Mr. Patrick first appeared before the world as an author anonymously, in a learned critique, on Davies' Celtic Researches, furnished to the editor of the *Imperial Review* :* he afterwards published an able sermon on education, entitled "the State of Morals in a Seaport," preached by him in 1808, for the benefit of the Vicar's Charity School. The extent of his reading, and of his researches into the history and origin of languages, was chiefly made known to the public through the medium of the *Classical Journal*. In the 5th Number of that

* Vol. 5, page 59.

work, for March, 1811, appeared his Essay "on the Chinese World" (p. 16); and in the 6th number, for June, it was followed by another Essay, on "the China of the Classics, under the appellation of *Serica*, *Thina*, *Sinæ*, and *Cathæi*, according to the Map of the two Indies, by "D'Anville" (p. 295), which is described in an appendix to it, written by Mr. Edmund Henry Barker (No. 10), as "a very learned and curious Essay." The 7th number of the same Journal, for September, 1811, contains the following communications from Mr. Patrick, viz. "A New Translation of Obscure Passages in the Bible" (p. 1); "The 10th Chapter of Genesis explained, or an Essay on the first peopling of the Earth" (p. 14); "The Britons of the Classics" (p. 44); and "The Chart of Ten Numerals, in two hundred Tongues" (p. 105); which is described by its author as having been "collected from one thousand authors, before Adelung and Eichhorn wrote, and from books of Voyages and Tours; the amusing labour of twenty years!!" and a "Notice" on Bell's translation of Strass' Stream of Time (p. 247). The 8th number, published in December, 1811, contains the following works of our Author, viz.—"A Sequel to Sir William Drummond's Remarks on the Inscriptions found at ancient Saguntum" (p. 263);